



## Filing Receipt

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August 19, 2021

The Honorable Peter Lake  
The Honorable Will McAdams  
The Honorable Lori Cobos  
The Honorable Jimmy Glotfelty  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

RE: Project No. 51840 - *Rulemaking to Establish Electric Weatherization Standards*

Natural Gas Storage Statistics

Chairman Lake, Commissioner McAdams, Commissioner Cobos, and Commissioner Glotfelty:

CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the Company) appreciates the opportunity to provide the Public Utility Commission of Texas its perspective on weatherization of gas local distribution company (LDC) facilities and the procurement of firm gas supply needed to serve its customers, particularly residential and other human needs customers.

During the discussion of the procurement of firm gas supply, the issue of total natural gas storage volumes was brought up. The Company has obtained natural gas storage volumes and is providing this information to the Public Utility Commission of Texas. According to the statistics kept by the Railroad Commission of Texas, the State of Texas had approximately 390,970,000 cubic feet (Mcf)<sup>1</sup> of working gas<sup>2</sup> in natural gas storage facilities as of May 31, 2021, with a cumulative maximum withdrawal rate of

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<sup>1</sup> Mcf is a measure of volume equal to 1,000 cubic feet. See U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Glossary*. Available online at: <https://www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/>.

<sup>2</sup> Working gas is the "quantity of natural gas in the reservoir that is in addition to the cushion or base gas." Base gas is the "quantity of natural gas needed to maintain adequate reservoir pressures and deliverability rates throughout the withdrawal season. See U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Glossary*. Available online at: <https://www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/>.

approximately 17,536,000 Mcf per day.<sup>3</sup> The Company also offers the following information to provide additional context to these storage and withdrawal capacity figures: (1) the State of Texas produced approximately 818,825,363 Mcf of natural gas in May 2021;<sup>4</sup> (2) the State of Texas produced approximately 10,475,447,985 Mcf of natural gas in 2020;<sup>5</sup> and (3) the five largest gas LDCs in the State of Texas, which includes the Company's gas LDC, sold approximately 329,489,979 Mcf in 2019.<sup>6</sup>

The Company is committed to assisting and working collaboratively with the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Railroad Commission in the various rulemakings that the agencies are involved in. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick Reinhart

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<sup>3</sup> Railroad Commission of Texas, Texas Gas Storage Operations (as of May 31, 2021). Available online at: <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/media/aqzftbql/gsd-gas-storage-report-052021.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Railroad Commission of Texas, Monthly Oil and Gas Production. Available online at: <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/research-and-statistics/production-data/texas-monthly-oil-gas-production/>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Railroad Commission of Texas, Gas Utility Annual Statistical Reports. Available online at: <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/gas-services/publications-statistics/gas-utility-annual-statistical-reports-by-year/>.